

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are presently pending in the captioned application with no claims being amended.

Applicants note that the claims as amended in a preliminary amendment on May 19, 2000 in the International Application define a novel and patentable invention over the cited references. Regarding the indefiniteness rejection under § 112, ¶ 2 over claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 as presently pending with parentheses particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter of the invention. Therefore, further amendment to claim 7 is not required.

In view of the following arguments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and allow all claims pending in this application.